

# IFE OF MONTY

# 90

FEBRUARY 15, 1989

16 PAGES

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Get out your 3-D glasses

It's ALL NEW AND EXCITING TOO - the only reason Macintypes aren't GREEN with envy is that they don't know what color is anymore. *Macintypes - Amigans - Bad Boys - Lightsiders - Darksiders - LOOK OUT - THE ATARIANS* are back and things are going to look black. What? Oh, yes, this is issue 90 of *Life of Monty*, from Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, phone (415) 461-2692, but only between 5 PM and 11 PM Pacific time (maybe a little later on Friday and Saturday nights).

The nightmare may be over at last - *Pagestream 1.5* (actually, it should be *Publishing Partner Professional 2.1*) has finally arrived, and it seems to be going fine so far, but I know better than that. Even the original *PP* (noe called *Pagestream Junior*) had its share of bugs; for example, it doesn't let you import a picture, add something to it, and then resize it, nor can connected pages have a paragraph going from one page to the other change its margins. Still, this one comes with a decent serif font. Just one change from the original promised version: you can't vary the shape of a picture so that text can flow around the curves of the picture - text can flow around rectangular boxes containing pictures, but that's it.

**MONTY'S NEWS AND COMMENT** is brought to you by **DIET JOKE'S INCREDIBLE 3-D HALFTIME SUPER SHOW** and the three or so people who had the special glasses and actually saw it in 3-D (where was the *Slice Blimp*?)

Did any of you get those 3-D yellow-and-purple glasses? There were supposed to be 10 million sets, but Safeway stores each got 250, which they gave to the first 250 persons buying a six-pack of Diet Coke. I didn't actually see a pair, but it sounds like they were one lens transparent yellow and the other transparent purple; it sounds easy enough to seek out an art store, buy the materials, and make your own.

Now we know - Diet Pepsi bought up all of the glasses for their latest TV commercial . . .

Why did the registration form say "WORDS DIACON" in large letters?

By the way - isn't it "WORDS DIACON" (three words)?

Nominations for the Don Miller, Rod Walker, and John Koning (is this name correct?) Awards are being accepted. Anyone can make nominations for the Miller (outstanding service to the hobby during 1988), Walker (outstanding hobby literary accomplishment), and Koning (outstanding Diplomacy play in any format) awards by sending their choices to Larry Peery, P.O. Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102. Also indicate if you are willing to serve on the nomination screening committee. All "selected" nominees will appear on the final ballot, and all hobbyists will be able to vote for the awards.

Each winner will receive a personal plaque and will have their names engraved on the permanent awards. If you want to make a donation towards the costs of the awards, mail your checks to Fred Davis, 3210K Wheaton Way, Endicott City, MD 21043.

It's time to talk about everyone's favorite subject of the moment. No, not the International Cricket Conference ban on persons who play or coach (even if they coach blacks) (OK, mister smart-guy Reverend Jesse Jackson, if we can't call black Africans black, what do we call them - "Afro-Africans"? in South Africa. It's time to talk about the WORLD DIP CON selection process.

I agree with the current proposal to have the site selected in the same way as DIPCON - that is, the site will be selected at this year's DIPCON in San Diego, with those wanting to host WORLD DIP CON making their bids in front of the voters. I do not agree, however, with Larry Peery's suggestion of having multiple events in different parts of the country over a three-week period. There should be *one* con; after all, it's *supposed* to be "the World Championship of Diplomacy". The best place to hold it is near the Atlantic coast, near either New York or Washington, since this is in the range of a large part of the hobby, and since I believe that more visitors would come from Europe than from Australia regardless of the site.

The frontrunners seem to be DIXIECON in Chapel Hill, NC, ORIGINS in Atlanta, and ATLANTICON in Baltimore, although there could be a one-time-only Diplomacy-only event created just to host WORLD DIP CON. Perhaps MARYCON can be resurrected for one year. (The proposed Avalon Hill Championships convention has been put on the back burner.)

**LATE NEWS:** Remember when SPI was still around? In their "game idea surveys", the highest rating they ever received was for *Case Gold*, a hypothetical invasion of North America by a victorious Nazi Germany. Citing "fear of 'Nazi-admiration'", SPI decided not to publish it. About ten years later, 3W, new publishers of S&T, have announced plans to design *Case Gold* with a planned release at the end of this year . . .

## **DIPLOMACY - "LES MISERABLES" - RESTART**

As some of you already know, I tend to name my games after stage musicals. What with the false start, Les Miserables seems appropriate. The Boardman Number is 1909 E.

Edward Allen NMRed as Germany. (Note that his subscription has also expired.) Under my house rules, in case of an NMR in Spring 1901, the season is replayed with a standby called. Should the original player bother to send in orders after all, he keeps the position. In case the original player's orders arrive on the day that this is sent out, your original orders will be used and Spring 1901 will be sent out separately.

**AUSTRIA** Melinda Ann Holley

P.O. Box 2793, Huntington, WV 25727

**ENGLAND** Michael Hopcroft

2190 W. Burnside #108, Portland, OR 97210

**FRANCE** Brian Bajuk

217 Holy Cross Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

**GERMANY (STANDBY)** Tom Nash

5512 Pilgrim Road, Baltimore, MD 21214

**ITALY** Thomasine Bowen

COA: 251 Ward Street, Salem, VA 24153

**RUSSIA:** Tom Slaughter

1545 Northcliff Trace, Roswell, GA 30076

**TURKEY:** Stephen Dorneman

94 Eastern Avenue #1, Malden, MA 02148

**SPRING 1901 DEADLINE is now MARCH 24**

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## **MEETING OF MINDS #25**

This is *Meeting of Minds*, the subzine of International Diplomacy Tournament Ratings (IDTR), written by Mister Big himself (IDTR-wise), Don Del Grande, 142 Eliseo Drive, Greenbrae, CA 94904-1339, USA.

The big news is that I have decided to include the Victorian State Diplomacy Championships in Melbourne after noticing that Melbourne is more than 250 miles away from any of Australia's other tournaments. (See the full list on the next page.)

### **\*\*\*\*\* THE MONEY QUESTION \*\*\*\*\***

Recently, MIDCON announced a first prize of 100 Pounds (about \$180) in its next Diplomacy tournament. This started a wave of complaints in the

British hobby over "professionalism". In Richard Walkerdine's *Mad Policy*, the response to the prize has all been negative, with many persons stating their intent to stay away from the MIDCON Diplomacy tournament this November. Among the complaints are of professionalism taking the fun out of the game and the possibilities of cheating, bribery, mercenaries - maybe even "playing to lose for money".

I know that Pacificon has cash prizes (but not at MIDCON's level), and tournaments at major cons (ORIGINS, for example) give away merchandise certificates, but I haven't heard any complaints. Does anybody have any comments on this "play-for-pay" situation? Your comments will be printed in the next *Round Table of Minds*.

### **1989 IDTR SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS (second revision)**

**(Australian) CANCON** was held earlier this year  
**VICTORIAN CHAMPIONSHIP** - sometime around Easter in Melbourne, Australia. Contact John Cain, 76 Barool Road, Balwyn 3103, AUSTRALIA.

**DIXIECON** - late April, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Contact David Hood, 15-F Estes Park, Carrboro, NC 27510.

**NEW SOUTH WALES CHAMPIONSHIP** - mid-June in Sydney, Australia. Contact: Luke Clutterbuck, 16/353A Old South Head Road, Bondi Beach, NSW, 2026, AUSTRALIA.

**ORIGINS** - June 29 to July 2 in Los Angeles at the Airport Hilton. Contact ORIGINS, P.O. Box 8399, Long Beach, CA 90808.

**ATLANTICON** - either the same weekend or the weekend after ORIGINS, in Baltimore. Contact ATLANTICON, P.O. Box 15405, Baltimore, MD 21220.

**MANORCON** - July 7-10, in Birmingham, England. There is a registration form in this issue. NOTE: MANORCON is now calling itself the "(British) National Individual Diplomacy Championship"

**DIPCON** - July 28-30 in San Diego. There is a registration form in this issue.

**(Canadian) CAN-CON** - August 4-6 in Toronto. Contact Doug Acheson, 95 Dundonald Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 3T4, CANADA.

**PACIFICON** - September 1-3 in San Mateo, California.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP** - October in Adelaide, Australia. Contact Mat Gibson, 4 Oxenbould Street, Parkside 5063, AUSTRALIA.

**MIDCON** - Late October in Birmingham, England. NOTE: there MAY be trouble getting information on this tournament, owing to the complaints about the 100 Pounds first prize.

# PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS 2

## ELECTION TURN 3

	REP	DEM	IND
<b>MID-ATLANTIC</b>			
57	351	0	0
58	0	67	0
53	0	67	0
56	0	67	0
59	0	1	0
60	0	1	0
61	0	1	0
55	0	0	186
<b>Issues 55 and 57 give votes</b>			
<b>VOTES</b>	<b>1152</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>879</b>
<b>NEW ENGLAND</b>			
57	151	0	0
62	1	0	0
55	0	0	87
<b>Issues 55 and 57 give votes</b>			
<b>VOTES</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>364</b>
<b>EAST NORTH CENTRAL</b>			
53	0	67	217
54	0	67	0
64	0	67	0
57	0	2	0
58	0	1	0
59	0	1	0
<b>Only issue 53 gives votes</b>			
<b>VOTES</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>437</b>
<b>WEST NORTH CENTRAL</b>			
55	101	0	0
56	101	0	0
62	1	0	0
58	0	0	25
61	0	0	25
<b>Issues 55 and 56 give votes</b>			
<b>VOTES</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>257</b>

	REP	DEM	IND
<b>EAST SOUTH CENTRAL</b>			
54	51	0	0
57	51	0	0
53	1	0	0
55	1	0	0
56	1	0	0
<b>Issues 54 and 57 give votes</b>			
<b>VOTES</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>170</b>

<b>SOUTH ATLANTIC</b>			
56	116	1	0
57	116	1	0
58	116	1	0
62	1	0	0
64	1	100	0
55	0	100	0
53	0	1	0
54	0	1	0
59	0	1	0
60	0	1	0
61	0	1	0
<b>Issues 55, 56, 57, 58, and 64 give votes</b>			
<b>VOTES</b>	<b>1558</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>751</b>

<b>WEST SOUTH CENTRAL</b>			
56	51	0	0
57	51	0	0
54	1	0	0
58	1	0	0
62	1	0	0
64	1	0	0
<b>Issues 56 and 57 give votes</b>			
<b>VOTES</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>94</b>

<b>ROCKY MOUNTAINS</b>			
53	81	0	0
56	81	0	0
60	81	0	0
62	1	0	0
57	1	0	0
59	0	0	50
63	0	0	5

(results on the next page)

# MANORCON 89

FRIDAY 7TH to MONDAY 10TH JULY, 1989

at High Hall, Birmingham University

**THE VENUE:** A modern university hall of residence in the north east corner of the campus which was used to house Manorcon in 1985, 1987 and 1988. A bar and several common rooms will be available and both single and twin bedrooms may be booked.

**THE EVENT:** For six years Manorcon has been held at Birmingham University and has grown steadily in both size and popularity. By 1987, with 250 people in attendance, it had become the biggest convention in the postal games hobby and offered more tournaments, more games and more variety than any other. In 1988 Manorcon hosted the first ever World Dip Con, attracted 330 games players and ran 20 different tournaments, and although we don't expect to be quite as big in '89 we still intend to offer more variety and more scope for games playing than any other convention.

**THE MAIN EVENTS:** Diplomacy remains the core of the convention and as usual two tournaments are planned. The National Team Championship, now in its seventh year, will take place on the Saturday and will involve teams of seven players drawn from zines, universities and other groupings - in 1988 we had 24 teams and this year we expect something similar. We will also host the British Individual Championship on both Saturday and Sunday which, with 188 participants in 1988, is now the largest Diplomacy tournament in the hobby.

**OTHER TOURNAMENTS:** David Watts, the inventor of Railway Rivals, will be running a Railway Rivals tournament as well as tournaments of several of his other games. Francis Tresham, of Hartland Trefoil Games, will be running several Hartland Trefoil tournaments and there will also be tournaments organised for Acquire, American Football, Croquet, Darts, 5-a-side Soccer, Kingmaker, Speed Circuit and many other games including several not offered before.

**OTHER GAMES:** As well as the organised events there will of course be dozens of other games being played throughout the convention. Don't think that if you attend you will be expected to take part in a full tournament - if you just want to play a few sessions of your favourite games you'll have plenty of opportunity to do so.

**HOBBY SUPPORT:** Gibsons Games will be supporting the event and we hope to be able to organise a Zine Shop a games stall and a contact point for players and GMs.

**THE HARD SELL:** With all this on offer and the promise of still more to come can you afford to miss out? Complete and send off the booking form today to ensure your place in the biggest hobby event of the year! Once you have booked you will receive regular Progress Reports giving details of timetables, extra attractions, who is coming, where to eat in Birmingham and all the last-minute changes that will inevitably occur with an event of this size. If you register during 1988 you save £2 on the full convention fee and if you are booking a room you only need pay a deposit now, with the balance payable next April.

**THE CONTACT:** Richard Walkerdine, 13 Offley Road, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 2AZ.  
Telephone Hitchin (0462) 55741.

**WANT TO HELP?:** If you'd like to be involved in the organising or the running of a tournament, or if you just have some ideas on how to improve the con, then contact Richard Walkerdine as soon as possible!

# MANORCON 89 BOOKING FORM

(Friday July 7th to Monday July 10th, 1989)

Name:	Tel. no.:
Address (Students should give home and college addresses):	

## PRICES

PRICES		PAYMENT ENCLOSED												
<u>Convention Fee</u> (Payable in full at time of booking)														
Full Convention (if paid during 1988)	£ 6													
OR														
Full Convention (if paid during 1989)	£ 8													
OR														
Daily Rate (Please indicate which days) (Fri.... / Sat.... / Sun....)	£ 3/day													
<u>Cost of Rooms (Bed &amp; Breakfast)</u> (Deposit payable - see below)														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Single</th> <th>Twin</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1 night</td> <td>£14</td> <td>£26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 nights</td> <td>£27</td> <td>£50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 nights</td> <td>£39</td> <td>£72</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Single	Twin	1 night	£14	£26	2 nights	£27	£50	3 nights	£39	£72	
	Single	Twin												
1 night	£14	£26												
2 nights	£27	£50												
3 nights	£39	£72												
If room required for less than three nights please indicate which nights required: Fri.... / Sat.... / Sun....														
If twin room required please give name of second occupant:														
Room Deposits are £3 per person per night, payable at time of booking. Balance payable by April 1989.														
Note: Please book early to avoid disappointment														
<u>Hobby Services Levies</u>	Stats Service													
These are totally voluntary but are included as a reminder that hobby services cost money and all donations are very gratefully received!	Hobby Dev. Fund													
TOTAL ENCLOSED														

Cheques should be payable to THE UNIVERSITIES DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT

Full refunds guaranteed up to June 9th, 1989.

Return form to: Richard Walkerdine, 13 Offley Road, Hitchin, Herts. SG5 2AZ, ENGLAND



1989 PRE-REGISTRATION FORM FOR DIPLOM XXII



PO BOX 8416  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92102  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EVENING PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PERMANENT ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (US\$22.00 per person) \_\_\_\_\_ NAMES OF OTHERS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

PLEASE CHECK THE ACTIVITIES YOU ARE INTERESTED IN: \_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR DIPLOMACY INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENT \_\_\_\_\_ REGULAR DIPLOMACY  
TEAM TOURNAMENT \_\_\_\_\_ VARIANT DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT \_\_\_\_\_ COMPUTER DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT \_\_\_\_\_ GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY TOURNAMENT  
\_\_\_\_\_ NOVICE REGULAR DIPLOMACY \_\_\_\_\_ KREMLIN GAME TOURNAMENT \_\_\_\_\_ (OTHER: SPECIFY): \_\_\_\_\_

EXPECTED DATE/TIME OF ARRIVAL: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPECTED DATE/TIME OF DEPARTURE: \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CAR POOLING OR SHARE-A-RIDE? \_\_\_\_\_

WILL YOU NEED HELP LOCATING A HOTEL/MOTEL? \_\_\_\_\_

Comments, Suggestions, Questions:

PRE-REGISTRATION CLOSES JUNE 17, 1989

*North America's Annual Diplomacy Convention*

# DIPCON XXII

*to be held in*

***San Diego, Calif.***

*on*

***July 28, 29, 30, 1989***

DIPCON draws players from all over North America. Test your diplomatic skills in this exciting event! Novices to the most experienced players welcome. DIPCON XXII is an International Diplomacy Tournament Rating (IDTR) sanctioned event.

*Voting for World Dip Con II's location in 1990 will be held during DIPCON XXII in San Diego. Only those who are present are eligible to vote.*

**for more information contact: Larry Peery  
PO Box 8416 San Diego, CA 92102**

	REP	DEM	IND
<b>ROCKY MOUNTAINS (continued)</b>			
Issues 53, 56, 59, and 60 give votes			
<b>VOTES</b>	<b>778</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>459</b>

**PACIFIC**

57	51	0	0
53	1	0	0
58	1	0	0
62	1	0	0
61	0	0	12
55	0	0	20

Issues 55 and 57 give votes

<b>VOTES</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>191</b>
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**CALIFORNIA**

53	0	100	0
61	0	100	0
54	0	1	0
55	0	1	0
56	0	1	1
57	0	1	1
58	0	1	30
59	0	1	0
60	0	1	1
62	0	1	0
63	0	1	0
64	0	1	1

Issues 53, 58, and 61 give votes

<b>VOTES</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>1124</b>	<b>714</b>
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**ORGANIZERS**

Mid-Atlantic	20/0 (40)	10/0 (100)	38/0 (62)
New England	20/0 (20)	0/0 (0)	18/0 (29)
East North C	0/0 (40)	100/0 (100)	44/0 (72)
West North C	0/0 (0)	0/0 (0)	0/50 (75)
East South C	0/0 (0)	0/0 (0)	0/0 (11)
South Atlantic	60/0 (110)	10/0 (100)	0/0 (26)
West South C	0/0 (0)	0/0 (0)	0/25 (50)
Rocky Mountain	40/0 (70)	0/0 (0)	0/15 (45)
Pacific	0/0 (0)	0/0 (0)	0/10 (20)
California	0/0 (0)	20/40 (60)	0/20 (50)

Numbers are: President/VP (Combined two-turn total)

# TRAVEL

## STEPHEN WILCOX

Nassau County  
Nassau County  
Nassau County  
Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh  
Newark  
Buffalo  
Buffalo

## DAVE ANDERSON

Chicago  
Chicago  
Chicago  
Chicago  
Chicago  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles

## JACK HALVERSTADT

Bridgeport  
Hartford  
Boston  
Boston  
Cleveland  
Cincinnati  
Indianapolis  
Milwaukee  
Chicago  
Chicago

## GREG HILLIS

Minneapolis  
Omaha  
Wichita  
Washington  
Washington  
Washington  
Washington  
Baltimore  
Baltimore  
Baltimore

## MELINDA ANN HOLLEY

Chicago  
Chicago  
Chicago  
Chicago  
Chicago  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles  
Los Angeles

## CATHY OZOG

Los Angeles  
San Francisco  
San Francisco  
Dallas  
Dallas  
Houston  
Houston  
San Antonio  
Oklahoma City  
Tulsa

### VOTE TOTALS (SIG plus Issues) BY REGION

	REP	DEM	IND
Mid-Atlantic	2922	2359	2792
New England	916	291	883
East North C	1396	1952	1926
West North C	999	416	432
East South C	608	114	275
South Atlantic	2370	1980	1713
West South C	1071	197	269
Rocky Mountain	1120	334	604
Pacific	566	107	296
California	1689	2530	1833

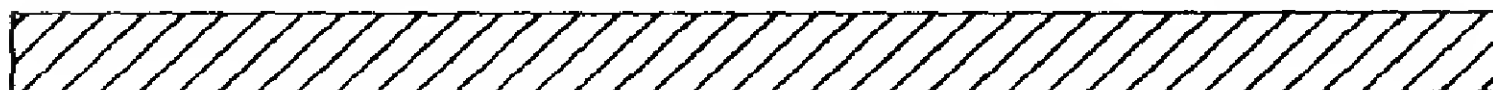
Based on these totals, the Republicans have 401 electoral votes, the Democrats have 137, and the third party has none. Remember, this does not include travel, organization, nor media.

<b>SPENDING</b>	<b>REP</b>	<b>DEM</b>	<b>IND</b>
<b>Start of turn</b>	<b>1875</b>	<b>1275</b>	<b>1161</b>
<b>Issues</b>	<b>1566</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>490</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>615</b>

**Remember, having CFPs left over at the end of the next turn is meaningless.**

## ORDERS FOR THE LAST TURN: NAME RECOGNITION ORGANIZERS TRAVEL

### DEADLINE FOR THE LAST TURN IS MARCH 18



## RAILWAY RIVALS - TURN 6

**GREEN (Goode):** K 9 - I 8; C 42 - C 41; D 41 - York  
A 45 - A 44; N 18 - L 19  
L 19 - K 20; F 59 - G 60  
**Pay 3 to GOERS (J 8, I 8, M 19), 1 to COSALT (K 20)**

**GOERS (Brown):** N 23 - K 25 - K 26  
K 26 - I 27; I 6 - I 5  
I 5 - J 4; Wolverhampton - H 19  
**Pay 2 to NUT (H 19, I 27), 1 to GREEN (J 4)**

**NUT (von Metzke):** F 17 - F 13  
F 13 - F 11; C 46 - A 45; I 20 - Wolverhampton  
L 64 - M 64 - Cambridge; L 71 - London; C 44 - B 43  
**Pay 2 to SEX (B 45, B 43), 1 to GOERS (F 11),  
1 to GREEN (A 45)**

**ECU (Longstaff):** N 24 - L 23 - L 21  
D 28 - D 26 - G 25  
G 25 - G 24 - H 23 - H 21  
**Pay 1 to COSALT (L 21)**

**COSALT (Watts):** H 14 - G 14 - G 12; I 15 - I 14

D 44 - C 44; E 65 - F 65 - F 66 - G 67 - G 68

G 68 - G 69 - H 69 - H 70; B 55 - Derby

Pay 2 to GOERS (G 12, I 14), 1 to NUT (C 44), 1 to ECU (H 70)

**SEX (Holley):** L 56 - K 57 - Peterborough

I 2 - H 1 - Preston

Preston - C 4 - C 7

### CURRENT TOTALS

**GREEN:** 55 - 4 + 2 = 53

**GOERS:** 38 - 3 + 6 = 41

**NUT:** 41 - 4 + 3 = 40

**ECU:** 50 - 1 + 1 = 50

**COSALT:** 42 - 4 + 2 = 40

**SEX:** 38 - 0 + 2 = 40

That ends the building rounds. Now for the operating rounds. Here are the seven runs for turn 7:

Stoke - Bradford (32 - 22)

York - London (14 - 64)

Birmingham - Liverpool (51 - 34)

Leeds - Any Port (13 - S6)

Newport - London (54 - 62)

South England - Lincoln (S1 - 43)

Derby - Bolton (41 - 24)

The building die roll is 4, so each player can build up to 16 at the end of the turn. Remember, each player can enter up to four runs.

**DEADLINE for TURN 7: MARCH 21**

### **GAME OPENINGS**

**KINGMAKER** - Anderson\*, Ozog, Nixon, Moore\*, Weseman signed up. Would like one more. \$2 NMR fee (\*indicates paid).

**TALISMAN** - Dorneman, Pierce signed up. Basic rules. \$2 NMR fee.

**1830** - Goode, Pierce, von Metzke, Nixon(?) signed up. Need 1-3 more. \$2 NMR fee.

**KREMLIN** - Anderson\*, Carter, Weseman signed up. Need 1-2 more. \$2 NMR fee (\*indicates paid).

# CONSUMER ALERT!

I got a phone call the other night from "Credit Card Advantage" which offered me, a Mastercard/Visa holder, the chance to get all sorts of merchandise at cheaper than wholesale prices. All I had to do was pay \$2 for a three-month trial, and whenever I wanted to buy some major item (a TV, for example), I quoted the retail price and they would send me the item for 40 percent off. Since the \$2 is refundable, they never bothered to give me a choice; just "give us your Mastercard/Visa number and we'll charge the \$2".

**TIPOFF TO THE RIPOFF!** NEVER give any credit card number to somebody who calls you on the phone. (If you call them, and you feel you can trust them, then it's OK.) I said that I never give my number out, and the person on the other end said that "my mother's the same way, but I just punch it into the computer and it determines if it's a valid number". **COUGH WHEEZE**

Fortunately, they made the mistake of telling me their company name and phone number. This way, (a) I didn't have to hang up on the guy but I said that I'd call them back if I wanted to accept, and (b) you know what to look out for when you hear that name. They even claimed to be "members of the Better Business Bureau". (So?)

**BACK TO BUSINESS:** I got plugs this month from Cathy & Kathy! Not only did Cathy Ozog give me a plug in *Cathy's Ramblings*, but Kathy Caruso even dedicated the latest issue of *Kathy's Korner* to me, and just because I called her an "honest, ethical publisher" (and she is, isn't she?).

Speaking of which, *Cathy's Ramblings* issue 40 features, as usual, one of the best covers of any 'zine. On the inside, about half of the 'zine covers the games (regular and gunboat Dip), with letters and miscellaneous chitchat completing the 10 pages. I don't see any openings, but standbys are always needed. Send \$7 for 10 monthly issues to Cathy Ozog, P.O. Box 5225, Munds Park, AZ 86017. (Cathy is a member of the DIPPERS & DRAGONS SOCIETY, even if she only made one A&E contribution.) By the way, Cathy, ORIGINS 90 is in Atlanta, and Conrad von Metzke tells me that there is a wildcat strike in parts of the British postal service; mail from the southeast UK gets through faster than from the Midlands.

What can be said about *Kathy's Korner* that hasn't been said in just about every 'zine in the hobby? The keywords here are "gossipy silliness", and if you don't have an official KK nickname, you just aren't a member of the hobby. As she might be moving, send about \$1/issue (well worth it) to Kathy c/o Steve Arnawoodian, 602 Hemlock Circle, Lansdale, PA 19446. (P.S. Kathy wants me to tell Don Williams to please go away.)

DON DEL GRANDE  
142 ELISEO DRIVE  
GREENBRAE, CA 94904-1339



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Larry Peery  
P.O. Box 8416  
San Diego, CA 92102

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